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THE GRAND STAND

"Make Pennsylvania Accessible"

VOL. 4 NO. 4

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE FOR THE PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED

June/July '79

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WELFARE ACCLAIMS ADVOCACY AS A PRIORITY

At the recent Pennsylvania Human Service Forum held in Harrisburg, Secretary of Public Welfare, Hellen B. O'Bannon listed as one of her priorities with the Department, advocacy for the disabled. In her words, "We must all be advocates." She went on to say that, "We must put into effect an advocacy system to deal with the rights of the Department's clients and insure that they are receiving all services to which they are entitled." Secretary O'Bannon pointed out the need to improve the information and referral system to insure that people do not become just a "ping pong ball," bouncing from one service agency to another in search of help.

Advocacy can assure interagency cooperation in provision of services to the disabled. The Secretary pointed out that we must strive to eliminate labels we have attached to people to declare them eligible for certain services. Departmental cooperation must be developed to the point that a client does not have to be taken out of one program and placed in another simply to receive other needed services.

In another meeting between the Secretary of Public Welfare and the Advocate for the Disabled/Handicapped, John H. Snyder, Mrs. O'Bannon pointed out that the Implementation Report from the Governor's Conference on Handicapped Individuals will be of great assistance and importance to the Department of Public Welfare in establishing its goals and directions for the future. Citizen input

is important and the Secretary looks forward to working with groups like the Conference on Handicapped Individuals, Inc., and its President, Ms. Bonnie Gellman.

Mr. Snyder will continue to provide technical assistance to state and local government agencies and institutions. Training, education and guidance are critical elements in any program of technical assistance. During the next fiscal year the Commonwealth faces a monumental task of making its buildings accessible to the disabled person. Mr. Snyder will assist in the fulfillment of this task.

The Advocate can assist in improving the Information and Referral services to the disabled and serve as a link between the disabled population and the services required.

Further, as Advocate, Mr. Snyder can assist in determining and analyzing problem areas in the delivery of services required to meet the needs of the disabled/handicapped.

Secretary O'Bannon commended all consumer, advocate, and private non-profit organizations and individuals who have joined hands to work together on behalf of the disabled/handicapped.

After July 1, 1979, all communications should be addressed to John H. Snyder, Pa. State Advocate for the Handicapped, Health & Welfare Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

NATIONAL TOLL-FREE HOTLINE

A national, toll-free hotline service has been installed by Mainstream Inc., to answer questions and supply information on Federal legislation concerning the handicapped. The hotline, called "Mainstream on Call", is for all handicapped (telephone and TTY communications) call toll-free 1-800-424-8089.

Mainstream on Call answers all questions concerning federal programs and legislation. Disabled consumers who have questions about their legal rights, as well as corporations, educators and service providers who need information on compliance of federal law, find Mainstream's hotline a convenient and accurate way to cut through the red tape to get the answers they need.

MISS WHEELCHAIR PENNSYLVANIA 1980

The Miss Wheelchair Pennsylvania 1980 Pageant was held June 2, 3, 1979 at Monroeville, Pa. Those who competed were: Betty R. Hydrick, Turtlecreek; Judith McKrell, Russelton, Pa.; Kimberly Ann Cochran, Brackenridge, Pa.; Alice Ackroyd, Nazareth, Pa.; Carol Ann Rodgets, Butler, Pa.; Theresa A. Stokes, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Roberta Duffner, Avonmore, Pa.

The judges for the pageant were Mrs. Jane Fueller, Mrs. Maria Kyne, Mr. Alan Cox, C.P.O. Sam Jones, Mr. Joe Margalis, and Ms. Maxine Woody.

The contestants arrived on Saturday and participated in informal programs during which they met the judges and each other for the first time. Sunday morning they met their Navy escorts and were interviewed by the judges. Judging continued through lunch and into the afternoon. The contestants enjoyed viewing the movie "Miss Wheelchair America Pageant" to which the winner will be sent. They enjoyed a Fashion Show and a Cosmetic Demonstration.

Sunday evening the Pageant was held with John H. Snyder as Master of Ceremonies. Some participants of previous Miss Wheelchair America entries were:

1975--Judy Mangus "Miss Congeniality"

1976--Christine (Valasek) Kunchik
"Miss Achievement"

1977--Jennie Lee Morgan, President of the
1980 Pageant

1978--Peggy McCracken

At the time Grand Stand went to press, the winner of this year's Miss Wheelchair Pennsylvania Pageant had not yet been named. We wish, however, to extend to her our sincere congratulations and best wishes as she goes on to represent Pennsylvania at the National Pageant in Columbus Ohio, August 1-5, 1979.

QUADRIPLLEGIC WINS PRIMARY ELECTION AND CHAIRS ANNUAL WHEELCHAIR GAMES

Edward B. Davenport of Norristown, Pa. has been involved in two victories lately. First was his winning the Primary Election for Register of Wills in Montgomery County, and secondly, of seeing hundreds of disabled individuals participating in the Annual Wheelchair Games. In an interview with Today's Post, Ed said "Changing the image of the disabled is our goal, this is not a weekend retreat. It is a very serious competition . . . to help the disabled reach beyond themselves".

Our congratulations on both counts. I know our readers will be pulling for you as we go to the polls in the Fall.

GROUND BROKEN FOR UNIQUE GROUP HOME FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

West-In-Arms, sponsored by Kiski Valley Opportunities Unlimited of Armstrong County has been responsible for developing this unique group home. The facility will include two buildings on different sites and will house twenty-four (24) physically handicapped persons of low to moderate income, and five house-parents.

House parents of the physically handicapped, mentally alert residents will occupy apartments located within the main section of buildings. For more information, contact: Mrs. Audrey Dill, President of Kiski Valley at R.D. #1, Pleasantview Drive, Vandergrift, Pa. 15690.

The Pennsylvania Delaware Chapter of AAWB (American Association Workers for the Blind) will hold their Annual Conference at Seven Springs, October 10-11-12, 1979.

Gene Barton, Registrar, can be contacted at the Pa. Office for the Visually Handicapped 5000 Sixth Avenue, Altoona, Pa. 16002, phone (814) 946-0861 for further information and materials.

AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN. . .

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act doesn't actually call for the tumbling down of walls. However, from a wheelchair, a curb can be almost as restrictive as any wall, and Section 504 does call for, among other things, construction of curbcuts.

Curbcuts, ramps, restroom alterations & various other forms of accessibility modification construction is becoming more and more visible as a result of the 504 Regulations.



As pictured above, hotels/motels are now responding to the need to make their facility accessible to the handicapped. In this photo, Jack Snyder and Ms. Bonnie Gellman enter the now accessible Treadway Resort Inn at Grantville, Pa.

Colleges and Universities such as Temple, Penn State, and Pitt are in the process of physical construction changes that will make them accessible to the handicapped/disabled members of society. As citizen advocates we must applaud all accessibility modification efforts.

Salt Fork State Park, near Cambridge, Ohio, will host an informal Camp-O-Thon for handicapped persons August 17-18-19, 1979. The event will be sponsored by the Handicapped Travel Club, Inc., according to George Alderson of Altoona, Pa. who is the author of a syndicated newspaper column aimed at the disabled and their friends.

Alderson said "Word has just been received from H.J. (Fritz) Saynor Sr., National Public Relations Director, that all arrangements are now completed and reservations for handicapped camping sites should be sent to James Martin, East Coast Public Relations Director, at 124 S. Pearl St., Grantville, Ohio 43023 by June 1.

Approximately twenty (20) camping sites will be held for the severely disabled. The event will be open to the general public and all those who are interested in the camping abilities of the disabled.

"The H.T.C. is an informal camp and travel club with basic membership composed of persons of all ages, all walks of life and all types of medical problems. Each member is anxious to share his thoughts, ideas, suggestions and experiences with others. There is an air of self-reliance, learning to do for themselves, learning their potentials as well as their limitations and watching others with similar problems see how they were solved in order to enjoy camping and traveling." Alderson said.

WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

The first Wheelchair Marathon in this area will be held in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park on Saturday morning, September 15th.

Sponsored by the Magee Memorial Rehabilitation Center Auxiliary on behalf of the Delaware Valley Wheelchair Association, the 10,000 meter (6.2 mile) event will be open to anyone confined to a wheelchair.

The unique event has been approved by the Fairmount Park Commission and will be supported by the Middle Atlantic Road Runners Association as well as the Middle Atlantic A.A.U. For more information call (215) 864-7190.

C.H.I. (Conference on Handicapped Individuals Inc.)

Thirty people attended the recent Board of Directors meeting at the State Easter Seal Society Headquarters office. There was broad representation from almost every part of the state.

A Logo contest is being held to develop a logo that will be used by C.H.I. on all stationery and other printed material. It is this editor's understanding that all entries must be on 8½ x 11 paper and submitted to President Bonnie Gellman, Room 429, City Hall Annex, Philadelphia, Pa. not later than Oct. 15, 1979. A prize will be offered to the winner.

Region VIII which includes the counties of Tioga, Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Luzerne and Pike will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. June 20, 1979 at the Scranton School for the Deaf. All those living in Region VIII are encouraged to attend.

We now have in excess of 314 members. As of May 12, 1979 each region had the following number of members:

Region I	-- 80
Region II	-- 29
Region III	-- 37
Region IV	-- 26
Region V	-- 103
Region VI	-- 16
Region VII	-- 7
Region VIII	-- 14
Out-of-State	-- 2

The goal that has been set is 3,000 members by 1980. Membership Chairperson, Jennie Lee Morgan asks that people send their \$3.00 to her at 910 4th Avenue, Ford City, Pa. 16226.

The Chairpersons of each Region are: Region I: Jean Waxman, Widner College, 231 Kamelski, Chester, Pa.; Region II Michelle Grossmeyer, Good Shepherd Home, Allentown; Paul J. Glick, 1717 Newport Dr., Lancaster, from Region III. From Region VI, Shirley Bouquin of 27 Drake Dr., Oil City, Pa. is Chairperson and John Horst of 96 N. Penn Ave. in Wilkes Barre, Pa. serves as Chairman of Region VIII.

Region III will hold an organizing meeting at 7:30 pm, June 11, 1979 at the Elizabethtown Hospital for Children & Youth. All those in Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Perry, Cumberland Franklin, Adams and York counties are urged to attend.

The following persons attended the CHI Board meeting May 14, 1979. J.L. Morgan, Al Mertz, S. Barnes, C. O'Donnell, S. Bouquin, M. Danowski, L. Subit, R. Heilman, P. Heilman, L. Horrell, M. Crull, D. Aulenbach, J. Snyder, S. Rosser, D. Bowen, Fr. Nees, G. Mangus, G. Crull, D. Rosser, B. Peppel, R. Odhner, C. Odhner, Mr. and Mrs. M. Whitenight, A. Whitenight, A. Hermany, M. Wagner, S. Williams, B. Gellman and P. McGrath.



Dr. John F. Nees, (Father John) recently received the Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

If you do not own an automobile and would like to have an identification card to assist you in cashing checks and other times when identification is needed, under 15.10 Section B of the Pa. Vehicle Code, you may secure such a card for a fee of \$5.00 from Pa. Bureau of Motor Vehicles. You must provide, in person, a copy of your birth certificate. Present this information to the Motor Vehicle Office in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia or Harrisburg or the nearest State Police Office to have the identification card sent to you.

1979 COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

George Alderson of 603 5th Street, Juniata, Pa. recently received the 1979 Communications Award sponsored by the National Easter Seal Society for his series of columns, "Crutches - Cane - Wheelchair". George, a left leg amputee, is trying to make life easier for handicapped people and bring about more awareness of the problems and concerns of the disabled. His column is carried in 15 Pennsylvania newspapers and as many in other states. I would like to share with you the column he wrote for April release:

CRUTCHES - CANE - WHEELCHAIR by George Alderson

So you're a physically inconvenienced high school student and interested in being a biologist. Don't let this inconvenience handicap your mind.

This is the advice of Professor Edward C. Keller Jr., a handicapped biologist at W. Virginia University who heads an unusual science course for exceptionally bright, but handicapped high school students.

"One trait the handicapped have is a tremendous amount of patience, which is extremely valuable in classifying organisms", Dr. Keller said.

"We had one student this past year who is blind and deformed and told us that he was ready to go on welfare. When he finished the six-week course he decided to continue studying mathematics and science in his senior year so he could prepare for college."

This is a two-year-old program sponsored by a group from the National Science Foundation. A six-week course is conducted at the Marine Science Consortium Station at Wallops Island, Va. and consists of lectures, field trips and individual research projects for 20 to 30 students from across the country.

"I've often been asked why more handicapped students aren't in the sciences," Dr. Keller said. "The fact is that it has been difficult for schools to provide all the services that the handicapped need. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 has changed all that."

"A career in science is not a pipedream for these students; there are at least 85 scientists who are members of the Foundation

for Science and the Handicapped. A handicapped body doesn't imply a handicapped mind."

Anyone interested in the program should contact Dr. Edward C. Keller Jr., professor of biology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Virginia 26508. Please advise him where you read about the program.

Crutches, Cane, Wheelchair, P.O. Box 295, Altoona, Pa. 16603.



Jim Goodwin, student at Temple University is using a TTY, one of the many pieces of equipment that assist the students through the Office of the Disabled at Temple University. Ms. Pat Austin, the Administrator of the office along with a good staff and great volunteers have made Temple University a school that the disabled can attend.

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Physically Handicapped
Francis X. Coyle, Chr.

Honorable Dick Thornburgh
Governor of Pennsylvania

John H. Snyder, State Advocate
for the Physically Handicapped

Larry D. Blankenhorn
Editor

PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSOR CONDUCTING
NATIONAL "RESOURCE HANDBOOK" PROJECT
ON SCOUTING FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Dr. Jack C. Dinger, Professor of Special Education at Slippery Rock State College has received a small grant from the U.S. Office of Education, Bureau of Education for the Handicapped to develop a "Resource Handbook on Scouting for Handicapped Boys and Girls", based upon results of an extensive questionnaire sent to 625 current leaders of scouting units for handicapped boys and girls throughout the nation. The handbook will provide step-by-step detailed directions which will help special education teachers, supervisors, and volunteer scout leaders to avoid the frustrations due to lack of know-how which sometimes inhibits the development and operation of new scouting programs for the handicapped.

Scouting has an excellent track record for helping to develop the personalities, knowledge and skills which enable the handicapped to be successfully mainstreamed within the school and normalized within the community. Being accepted as an equal in a scouting unit greatly increases the chances for similar acceptance in the mainstreamed school situation.

There is a great trend for special education classes to use the excellent instructional programs of the Girl Scouts, U.S.A. and the Boy Scouts of America as part of the school's program. For example, the Director of Special Education, State Superintendent of Schools, and the entire School Board of the state of North Carolina has unanimously voted to incorporate the Boy and Girl Scout-

ing programs into every special education class in the state. A bill has been submitted to the Legislature to appropriate \$50,000 for each of two years to accelerate the implementation of these programs. Similar efforts are reported in South Carolina, Alabama, Colorado and in the Los Angeles School System.

The Boy and Girl Scouting programs are well designed, very practical for teaching useful daily living skills and are highly motivating to children and youth. The programs provide the scout with many evidences of success, via badges, pins, patches and, in general, provide an excellent behavioral modification program for helping handicapped boys and girls channel their energy and abilities into positive acceptable achievement.

Pennsylvania should serve as a model for the nation by having the benefit of the scouting programs made available NOW to its thousands of handicapped youth enrolled in special education programs.

Persons interested in details for helping achieve these goals are encouraged to contact:

Dr. Jack C. Dinger
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(412) 794-7346

THE GRAND STAND

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